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Docket No.: BGI-188US
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE AS DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)**

In re Patent Application of:
Burkhard Kroger *et al.*

International Application No.: PCT/EP2004/014337

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 20 of this paper.